

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED] 25X1C

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. [REDACTED] 25X1A

1. Resistance activity in Latvia has been sharply limited since 1947. While minor partisan groups may still be in hiding in the Latvian forests, most resistance movements have been dispersed, and their members are now living either as employees on kolkhozy or as private farmers. There have been no partisan-inspired outbreaks during the past year and it is felt that such activity in the past caused more harm than benefit to the people and to the resistance movement itself. Latvians consider it more important to avoid irritating the occupation troops than to have a daily manifestation of resistance which could result in Soviet reprisals and thus further depress the morale of the people. Illegal newspapers and magazines, such as Latvia, Sidkabota, and Cudre, which appeared in 1946 and 1947, are no longer being printed. Instead; whispering campaigns are the chief type of anti-Soviet propaganda carried out at the present time.

2. The various independent resistance groups which exist in present-day Latvia have little or no contact with each other. Leaders of organizations are unknown to the individual members and the strict conspiratorial rules which are followed by resistance organizations bar many potential members. [REDACTED] the effectiveness of these organizations is limited by lack of suitable equipment and by the reluctance of the various groups to establish contact with each other.

3. It is alleged that the spirit of resistance is still alive in the Latvian people despite the fact that many persons have begun to collaborate with the Russians either out of a feeling of defeatism or of opportunism. The majority of the people, however, are still opposed to Communism and to the Soviet Union. Although the Russian and the Latvian people and their languages are officially on an equal level, [REDACTED] that Russian is the dominant language, especially in the cities, and that generally the Russians behave toward the Latvians as if they were their masters. About half the population of Riga and more than half the population of Ventspils is composed of Russian inhabitants, who moved there after World War II. **Therefore**, the Russian language is usually heard on the streets of these cities. Recently the Government has attempted to remove some of the causes of ill-feeling between Latvians and Russians by urging Russians living in Latvia to learn the Latvian language. Latvian language courses are organized both in the Government administration and in factories which employ Russians. [REDACTED] another reason for these courses is that they will eventually help to conceal the number of Russians in the area. **SECURITY INFORMATION**

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